

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

JOEY GARCIA,

Plaintiff,

v.

ADVANCED DRAINAGE
SYSTEMS, INC.,

Defendant.

Case No. 1:24-cv-00616-SAB

SCHEDULING ORDER (Fed. R. Civ. P 16)

Phased Discovery and Motion Deadlines:

Initial Disclosures: **October 24, 2024**

Pre-Certification Discovery: **November 5, 2025**

Certification Motion Filing: **January 23, 2026**

Opposition and Reply: **By Local Rule & Stipulation**

I. Date of Scheduling Conference

The Scheduling Conference was held via videoconference on October 1, 2024.

II. Appearances of Counsel

Kasra Ramez appeared via video on behalf of Plaintiff.

Cory D. Catignani appeared via video on behalf of Defendant.

III. Consent to Magistrate Judge

The parties have not consented to magistrate jurisdiction. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(c), to the parties who have not consented to conduct all further proceedings in this case, including trial, before United States Magistrate Judge Stanley A. Boone, you should be informed that because of the pressing workload of United States district judges and the priority of criminal cases under the United States Constitution, you are encouraged to consent to magistrate judge jurisdiction in an effort to have your case adjudicated in a timely and cost effective manner. Any criminal trial set

1 which conflicts with the civil trial will take priority, even if the civil trial was set first. Continuances
2 of civil trials under these circumstances may no longer be entertained, absent a specific and stated
3 finding of good cause, but the civil trial may instead trail from day to day or week to week until the
4 completion of either the criminal case or the older civil case. The parties are advised that they are
5 free to withhold consent or decline magistrate jurisdiction without adverse substantive
6 consequences.

7 **IV. Initial Disclosure under Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(1)**

8 The parties shall complete the initial disclosures required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(1), on or
9 before **October 24, 2024**.

10 **V. Amendments to Pleading**

11 The parties are advised that filing motions and/or stipulations requesting leave to amend the
12 pleadings does not reflect on the propriety of the amendment or imply good cause to modify the
13 existing schedule, if necessary. All proposed amendments must (A) be supported by good cause
14 pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(b) if the amendment requires any modification to the existing
15 schedule, see Johnson v. Mammoth Recreations, Inc., 975 F.2d 604, 609 (9th Cir. 1992), and (B)
16 establish, under Fed. R. Civ. P. 15(a), that such an amendment is not (1) prejudicial to the opposing
17 party, (2) the product of undue delay, (3) proposed in bad faith, or (4) futile, see Foman v. Davis,
18 371 U.S. 178, 182 (1962).

19 **VI. Class Certification**

20 The Court shall order a phased approach to this action. This first phase shall relate to class
21 certification. Any motion for class certification or motion to deny class certification shall be filed
22 on or before **January 23, 2026**. Opposition and reply briefs shall be filed in accordance with Local
23 Rule 230. The parties are encouraged to meet and confer at the appropriate time and submit a
24 stipulation expanding such briefing periods as necessary.

25 **VII. Discovery Plan and Cut-Off Dates**

26 The parties are ordered to complete all pre-certification discovery on or before **November**
27 **5, 2025**.

28 The provisions of Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(e) regarding a party's duty to timely supplement

disclosures and responses to discovery requests will be strictly enforced.

The parties are cautioned that the discovery cut-off deadlines are the dates by which all discovery must be completed. Absent good cause, discovery motions will not be heard after the discovery deadlines. Moreover, absent good cause, the Court will only grant relief on a discovery motion if the relief requested requires the parties to act before the expiration of the relevant discovery deadline. In other words, discovery requests and deposition notices must be served sufficiently in advance of the discovery deadlines to permit time for a response, time to meet and confer, time to prepare, file and hear a motion to compel and time to obtain relief on a motion to compel. Counsel are expected to take these contingencies into account when proposing discovery deadlines. Compliance with these discovery cutoffs requires motions to compel be filed *and heard* sufficiently in advance of the discovery cutoff so that the Court may grant effective relief within the allotted discovery time. A party's failure to have a discovery dispute heard sufficiently in advance of the discovery cutoff may result in denial of the motion as untimely.

VIII. Pre-Trial Motions

Unless prior leave of Court is obtained at least seven (7) days before the filing date, all moving and opposition briefs or legal memorandum in civil cases shall not exceed twenty-five (25) pages. Reply briefs filed by moving parties shall not exceed ten (10) pages. Before scheduling any motion, the parties must comply with all requirements set forth in Local Rule 230 and 251.

A. Non-Dispositive Pre-Trial Motions

As noted, all pre-certification discovery, including motions to compel, shall be completed no later than **November 5, 2025**. Compliance with this discovery cutoff requires motions to compel be filed *and heard* sufficiently in advance of the discovery cutoff so that the Court may grant effective relief within the allotted discovery time. A party's failure to have a discovery dispute heard sufficiently in advance of the discovery cutoff may result in denial of the motion as untimely. Non-dispositive motions are heard on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m., before United States Magistrate Judge Stanley A. Boone in Courtroom 9.

In scheduling any non-dispositive motion, the Magistrate Judge may grant Applications for an Order Shortening Time pursuant to Local Rule 144(e). However, if counsel does not obtain an

1 Order Shortening Time, the Notice of Motion must comply with Local Rule 251.

2 ***Discovery Disputes:*** If a motion is brought under Fed. R. Civ. P. 37, the parties must
3 prepare and file a Joint Statement re Discovery Disagreement (“Joint Statement”) as required by
4 Local Rule 251. The Joint Statement must be filed fourteen (14) calendar days before the scheduled
5 hearing date. Courtesy copies of all motion-related documents, declarations, and exhibits must be
6 delivered to the Clerk’s Office by 10:00 a.m. on the fourth court day prior to the scheduled hearing
7 date. Motions will be removed from the court’s hearing calendar if the Joint Statement is not timely
8 filed or if courtesy copies are not timely delivered. In order to satisfy the meet and confer
9 requirement set forth in Local Rule 251(b), the parties must confer and talk to each other in person,
10 over the telephone or via video conferencing before the hearing about the discovery dispute. The
11 Court may issue sanctions against the moving party or the opposing party if either party fails to
12 meet and confer in good faith.

13 **B. Dispositive Pre-Trial Motions**

14 ***Motions for Summary Judgment or Summary Adjudication:*** Prior to filing a motion for
15 summary judgment or motion for summary adjudication, the parties are ORDERED to meet, in
16 person or by telephone, and confer to discuss the issues to be raised in the motion.

17 The purpose of the meeting shall be to: 1) avoid filing motions for summary judgment where
18 a question of fact exists; 2) determine whether the respondent agrees that the motion has merit in
19 whole or in part; 3) discuss whether issues can be resolved without the necessity of briefing; 4)
20 narrow the issues for review by the court; 5) explore the possibility of settlement before the parties
21 incur the expense of briefing a summary judgment motion; and 6) to arrive at a Joint Statement of
22 Undisputed Facts.

23 The moving party shall initiate the meeting and provide a draft of the Joint Statement of
24 Undisputed Facts. **In addition to the requirements of Local Rule 260, the moving party shall**
25 **file a Joint Statement of Undisputed Facts.**

26 In the Notice of Motion, the moving party shall certify that the parties have met and
27 conferred as ordered above or set forth a statement of good cause for the failure to meet and confer.

28 **IX. Pre-Trial Conference and Trial Date**

1 The pre-trial conference and trial date shall be addressed following completion of the pre-
2 certification phase.

3 **X. Settlement Conference**

4 Should the parties desire a settlement conference, they will jointly request one of the Court,
5 and one will be arranged. In making such request, the parties are directed to notify the Court as to
6 whether or not they desire the undersigned to conduct the settlement conference or to arrange for
7 one before another judicial officer.

8 **XI. Related Matters Pending**

9 The parties proffer they are unaware of any related cases.

10 **XII. Compliance with Federal Procedure**

11 All counsel are expected to familiarize themselves with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure
12 and the Local Rules of the Eastern District of California, and to keep abreast of any amendments
13 thereto. The Court must insist upon compliance with these Rules if it is to efficiently handle its
14 increasing case load and sanctions will be imposed for failure to follow the Rules as provided in
15 both the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the Local Rules for the Eastern District of California.

16 Additional requirements and more detailed procedures for courtroom practice before United
17 States Magistrate Judge Stanley A. Boone can be found at the United States District Court for the
18 Eastern District of California's website (www.caed.uscourts.gov) under Judges; United States
19 Magistrate Judge Stanley A. Boone (SAB). In the area entitled "Case Management Procedures,"
20 there is a link to "Standard Information." All parties and counsel shall comply with the guidelines
21 set forth therein.

22 **XIII. Newer Admitted Attorneys and Motions before Judge Boone**

23 The Court reviews motions set for hearing and makes a determination whether to vacate the
24 hearing if the Court deems oral argument is unnecessary. See L.R. 230(g). Recognizing the value
25 and importance of training attorneys, for a motion set or to be set for hearing, the Court encourages
26 the parties to consider assigning the oral argument to an attorney with seven (7) years or less
27 experience out of law school. If any party provides notification that such an attorney from at least
28 one side will argue the motion, the Court will go forward with the hearing as scheduled. The parties

1 shall place such notification within a separately entitled section after the conclusion of the
2 motion, opposition, or reply briefing. If no party provides such notice, the hearing may be vacated
3 without further notice.

4 **XIV. Effect of this Order**

5 The foregoing order represents the best estimate of the court and counsel as to the agenda
6 most suitable to dispose of this case. The trial date reserved is specifically reserved for this case.
7 If the parties determine at any time that the schedule outlined in this order cannot be met, counsel
8 are ordered to notify the court immediately of that fact so that adjustments may be made, either by
9 stipulation or by subsequent status conference.

10 **Stipulations extending the deadlines contained herein will not be considered unless**
11 **they are accompanied by affidavits or declarations, and where appropriate attached exhibits,**
12 **which establish good cause for granting the relief requested. The parties are advised that due**
13 **to the impacted nature of civil cases on the district judges in the Eastern District of California,**
14 **Fresno Division, that stipulations to continue set dates are disfavored and will not be granted**
15 **absent good cause.**

16 **Lastly, should counsel or a party appearing pro se fail to comply with the directions**
17 **as set forth above, an ex parte hearing may be held and contempt sanctions, including**
18 **monetary sanctions, dismissal, default, or other appropriate judgment, may be imposed**
19 **and/or ordered.**

20 IT IS SO ORDERED.

21 Dated: **October 2, 2024**

22 
23 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE